

ANTI-COMMUNIST

Branded as spy, man suing CIA

By WILLIAM DODDS
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Two weeks ago, a neat bungalow on a quiet street in Rexdale was pelted with eggs.

Shortly before, a picture window was shattered in the night and the tires on a car in the drive were slashed.

The telephone rings at all hours. When Erik Heine, 48, owner of the house, answers, there is heavy breathing, obscenities and threats against him and his family.

There's really no point in him having a telephone. He can't make any important calls on it because he's convinced there's a wiretap on it somewhere.

His lawyers in the U.S. agree with him. They have warned him never to phone them or write. They say their phone calls and letters are probably under surveillance, too.

Heine, an Estonian-born Canadian who has devoted his life to fighting Communism, has been branded as a Moscow agent by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

He has pressed a slander suit against the CIA and its agent, Juri Raus, for the past six years, claiming \$110,000 in damages.

Raus, commander of the Legion of Estonian Liberation, spread word through North America's Estonian groups that Heine was a KGB (Russian secret police) agent. Richard Helms, CIA deputy director, swore before a Maryland court that the accusation was based on CIA sources.

But Heine is undaunted.

"I'm still a target for every kind of smear," he

said. "There's rumors . . . that I'm drinking heavily, that I'm beating my wife. They've even said I'm breaking down under the stress."

He smiled. In a paint-spattered T-shirt, he looked fit and ready for fight for another six years. The interview interrupted him in the middle of a minor repair to his house.

"You see — I know I'm right. I have never been and never will be a Soviet agent."

"I still see the CIA and the United States as the strongest force against an enemy I have fought all my life," he said. "I wish this could be settled some other way."

He is convinced that both he and the CIA are the losers in this dispute. The Russian KGB is the only winner, regardless of how the lawsuit ends.

In 1963, he was known as a violent anti-Communist, a man who lectured across North America on the evils of the Red menace, showing a film on Estonian guerrilla he had made himself at great expense.

Within months, the rumors and whispers started by Raus destroyed him in the Estonian community.

"It was a real shock for my fellow-Estonians," he mused. "I'd say 90 percent of them believed it."

But the worst is over, he said. "They are coming back. Less than half of them still believe the lies about me."

He is convinced the attack on him is based on false information fed to the CIA through infiltrators or double agents by Russia. "The CIA is being taken for a sucker."

Without changing his level tone, he remarked he is convinced he is still under surveillance by the CIA — possibly by telephone taps or other electronic equipment.

He picked up the telephone on his desk.

"I've been thinking about having this changed."

His number has been changed and is now unlisted, but he still gets threatening phone calls.

At the moment, his lawsuit is almost at a standstill.

The CIA refuses to reveal its sources for its charges against Mr. Heine on the grounds of national security. The legal argument now is to determine just how much the CIA has a right to hide.

He speaks of Canada's RCMP with respect. His only encounter with that force was a result of his anti-Communism activities.

The RCMP asked him to outline his plans and to promise not to cause trouble when a Russian delegation visited Expo 67 in Montreal.

It was a reasonable request, Mr. Heine thinks.

He was sentenced to 15 days in Montreal's Bordeaux jail for painting a slogan across a giant sculpture in front of the Russian Pavilion at Expo. It read Freedom For The People Of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

"It was like a vacation. That's the Grand Hotel after the Russian prisons I've been in," he said.

He spent nine years in Soviet prison camps for fighting the Communists in Europe.

He's still fighting here.

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